

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

MOZAMBIQUE: FLOODS

Preliminary Appeal no. MDRMZ002

GLIDE no. FL-2006-000198-MOZ

23 February 2007

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Preliminary Appeal no. MDRMZ002; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 16 to 22 February 2007, Appeal coverage: 59.3% (Please note that the appeal coverage is provisional, and includes both cash and in-kind support; pledges are being confirmed).

[<Click here to go directly to the contributions list on the website>](#)

Appeal history:

- Preliminary Appeal launched on 16 February 2007 for CHF 7,464,923 (USD 5,971,938 or EUR 4,524,196) in cash, in kind or in services, for 6 months to assist 100,000 beneficiaries (20,000 families).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 187,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 3,037,919 (USD 2,430,335 or EUR 1,875,259).

Operational Summary: Approximately 139,944 people are currently accommodated in resettlements (52,514) and 87,430 in accommodation centres because of the floods in Mozambique. The Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM)¹ is playing a crucial role in disaster response through its volunteer network assisting with relief, health and water and sanitation activities in accommodation centres in the four most affected Provinces; Zambezia, Manica, Sofala and Tete.



Village huts surrounded by flood waters.

Joint assessments, relief distributions and activities by CVM and the Federation Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) members are ongoing. Although the situation is very critical for the affected population of these provinces, it is likely to worsen as heavy rains are still forecast. Cyclone Favio has made landfall in Vilanculos and, as predicted, will pass close to the affected areas. [<Click here to view the map of the path of Cyclone Favio>](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

¹ In Portuguese: Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique

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Background

Torrential rains throughout the southern Africa region (from Angola in the west to Mozambique in the east with Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe in between) have led to overflowing of rivers and pressure on dams, resulting in wide-spread flooding in central and southern parts of Mozambique. The Zambezi, a flood plain river that crosses the continent – with three major dams – burst its banks; its tributaries flow into Cahoba Bassa Hydro-electric Dam in north-western Mozambique.

According to the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC²), as of 21 February 2007 some 138,944 displaced people are accommodated in 36 accommodations centres and some in resettlements in the four most affected provinces (Zambezia, Sofala, Manica and Tete). The number of displaced people increases on a daily basis and INGC estimated that 285,000 people may be affected by the current emergency. The government still fears that there could be a threat of possible further flooding as the rains continue in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

On 21 February 2007, a very intense tropical cyclone Favio made landfall in Vilanculos. More destruction from flooding is expected in Mozambique. CVM and the Federation have undertaken all safety measures to secure their staff working in the field.

Operational developments

Since the beginning of the emergency, the CVM flood operation has been stationed in Caia District in Sofala Province, the most strategic operational hub – being at the intersection of the four most affected provinces (Sofala, Tete, Manica and Zambezia). Although Caia district is convenient to start the operation, shortages of electricity, inadequate accommodation, especially for office, might limit the capacity of a bigger operation in the future.

According to the National Institute for Disaster Management, lack of food and clean water is a concern and could be worsened by the predicted rains. INGC also indicated that more than 4,000 people in Mopeia District have not received food and clean drinking water. There are fears that outbreaks of disease such as malaria and cholera may occur. One of the major challenges is inaccessibility of some accommodation centres by road. One helicopter from the United Nations is delivering relief supplies and food to the affected people stranded in isolated evacuation centres. However, it may not be possible to reach all areas – even by helicopter – thus there is an increased potential for malnutrition and disease outbreaks.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress and impact

Overall Objective: To provide humanitarian assistance to 20,000 families in the four floods-affected provinces (Sofala, Manica, Zambezi and Tete) in Mozambique.

Objective 1 (Shelter and non-food items): Provision of temporary shelter and non-food items to 20,000 families in Sofala, Manica, Zambezi and Tete provinces.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Since the beginning of the emergency, the non-food items (NFI) have been distributed as outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Non-food items distributed since the beginning of the emergency

| NFI | Manica and Sofala | Zambezia | Tete | Total |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Tarpaulins | 1,299 | 250 | 797 | 2,346 |
| Tents | 604 | 379 | 310 | 1,293 |
| Buckets | 891 | - | 310 | 1,201 |
| Blankets | 550 | - | 180 | 730 |
| Kitchen sets | 52 | - | 100 | 152 |
| Jerry cans | 646 | - | 189 | 835 |
| Sleeping mats | 10 | 14 | 210 | 234 |
| Clothes (kits) | 40 | - | - | 40 |

² INGC : Instituto Nacional de Gestão de Calamidades

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| | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| Mosquito nets | 1,000 | | 217 | 1,217 |
| Soaps (bars) | 2,000 | 1,000 | - | 3,000 |
| Plastic sheeting | 100 | - | - | 100 |
| Emergency kits | 200 | - | - | 200 |
| Chlorine tablets | 48 | - | - | 48 |
| ORS | - | -- | 600 | 600 |
| Water sachets | | | 2,000 | 2,000 |

*This table reflects distributions since the beginning of the emergency operation.

A joint Spanish and Benelux Red Cross societies' relief Emergency Response Unit (ERU) has been deployed and assessments and distributions are ongoing. Assessments are planned in Mutarara (Tete Province) and Chupanga (Sofala Province), while distributions are ongoing in three accommodations centres; DAF, Nhambola 1 and Nhambola 2 (Sofala Province), and Gopane and Kanhangu (Tete Province).

The registered population in the accommodation centres where evacuated by boat from flooded areas where villages are completely destroyed. The resettled population is mainly composed of farmers and a significant number of children, among them many orphans (data not available at the moment).

An air assessment conducted from a helicopter with a German rescue medical team (Humedica International) in Mutarara District revealed that thousands of families are in a settlement totally surrounded by water. At first glance, it seems that the humanitarian situation is very critical (without food, clean water, latrines and shelter). A decision was immediately taken to airlift a medical rescue team with plastic sheeting and water-maker sachets provided by the Red Cross.

In terms of shelter, the CVM/Federation relief team has reported that people are building temporary structures from grass and sticks. Following the initial non-food item distributions, these temporary huts have been covered with tarpaulin. It is evident that the displaced people prefer plastic sheeting, but with respect to health issues, tents are also distributed to the most vulnerable (the elderly, pregnant or lactating women, and female-headed household). Approximately one-third of the distributions in the accommodation centres are tents and two thirds plastic sheeting. As part of the shelter assessment, the relief team has started working on refining the actual needs in order to offer a more targeted response regarding the type of material used and the way it is used.

Objective 2 (Recovery, rehabilitation and restoration of livelihoods): To define the impact and magnitude of the floods on the livelihoods/food security of the affected communities and define appropriate relief and early recovery strategies that aim to restore (and maintain) those livelihoods.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective):

At this early stage of the emergency operation, the CVM/ Federation have mainly concentrated their efforts on rapid assessments for relief actions. Recover action will be considered shortly, once the immediate needs are accommodated.



CVM volunteers delivering health, and WatSan -related services and advice.

Objective 3 (Health): To provide primary health care to 20,000 families in the flood-affected areas.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

A total of 400 CVM health volunteers are currently working in first-aid posts in 31 out of 36 accommodation centres over the four most-affected provinces. Seven health field officers and 46 additional volunteers will be recruited to continue the emergency efforts in extreme conditions. Basic medical supplies are on their way to various first aid posts, but according to the CVM health officer in Sofala Province, the main health concern is malaria. In addition, leaflets on cholera are being printed and will be distributed in the accommodations centres.

Table 2: Consolidated statistics from the first aid posts in accommodation centres within Caia District, Sofala Province

| Centre | Malaria | Diarrhoea | Conjunctivitis | Scabies | Diarrhoea with blood | Injuries | Fever | Tooth aches | Other |
|--------------|------------|------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| A Cabral | 264 | 85 | 116 | 2 | - | 44 | 34 | 8 | 34 |
| Nhambalo 1 | - | 13 | 25 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 35 |
| Nhambalo 2 | 41 | 77 | 165 | 5 | 3 | 5 | - | - | 58 |
| Gangala | - | - | 26 | 3 | 3 | 5 | - | - | 63 |
| Total | 305 | 175 | 332 | 10 | 6 | 55 | 34 | 8 | 190 |

Objective 4 (WatSan and hygiene promotion): Ensure community access to adequate safe and clean water as well as sanitation facilities (excreta disposal, solid waste disposal, drainage and vector control) and hygiene promotion to 6,000 families for 90 days in four provinces, meeting SPHERE minimum standards.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective):

The CVM water and sanitation (WatSan) team, supported by a delegate from Spanish Red Cross, has started working in five accommodation centres in Caia (Sofala Province). They are distributing spades, machetes, plastic sheeting and additional materials for the construction of latrines.

Table 3: Sanitation situation in accommodations centres in Caia

| Accommodation centre | Number of people | Number of latrines |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| DAF | 1,400 | 28 |
| Nhambola 1 | 4,400 | 88 |
| Nhambola 2 | 1,600 | 32 |
| Tchetcha | 2,300 | 46 |
| Mfumo Domongos | 400 | 8 |
| Total | 10,100 | 202 |

During a coordination meeting in Caia led by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), a plan of action for WatSan activities was drafted. Related to latrine construction, initial plans call for a ration of 50 people to one latrine, eventually decreasing to 25 people per latrine. This is to speed up the process of making sure that people have access to toilets while they work towards the SPHERE standards. It has been agreed that CVM and the Federation would take care of water supply and sanitation in ten accommodation centres in Mopeia (Zambezia Province). In addition three water treatment units, donated by the Spanish Red Cross, have arrived in Caia. The main constraint remains logistics in distributing water to inaccessible resettlements and accommodation centres. Some materials, such as water purification kits, are expected from the Norwegian Red Cross and hygiene promotion activities are to be implemented soon.

Objective 5 (Institutional development): CVM has appropriate and affordable organizational structures at provincial and branch levels, with equipment to improve the capacity in disaster response.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective):

Each member of the FACT has been assigned a CVM counterpart, enabling the Federation and the CVM to work jointly and ensuring mutual learning and capacity building. In this immediate emergency phase, priority has however been given to setting up the core operation, and training programmes are being designed.

Objective 6: Restoration of family links.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

So far, activities in this objective are pending.

Federation Coordination

A task force has been in operation at CVM headquarters. Coordination meetings between CVM and Federation are taking place regularly, as are daily coordination meetings with the National Institute for Disaster Management in

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Maputo (in the morning) and Caia (in the afternoons). At the operational level in Caia, the following four sectoral groups have been created:

- Shelter and non food items;
- Food;
- Water and sanitation and health;
- Education and protection.

In Maputo, working groups for resettlement and rehabilitation have already been set up. The CVM is part of the infrastructures, WatSan, health and social support groups. Partner national societies (PNS) present in Mozambique – namely the Belgian, Danish, Finnish, German, Icelandic, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross societies – are also supporting the operation and attends some coordination meetings.

Regarding the shelter cluster, two major actors are now operating in emergency shelter; the CVM/Federation with a planned programme for 100,000 people, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) for 20,000 people. Coordination among these agencies is important to avoid overlapping and both agencies have committed to keep each other informed with plans and activities. The agencies have similar programmes, both aiming to complement the initiative of the local population. Tarpaulins, small tool kits and fixings (such as rope, wire and nails) in combination with materials currently used (grasses and sticks) will enable affected people to build better shelters; tents will be used to assist those who cannot build for themselves.

The Emergency Shelter Working Group (SWG) suggests that verification of the numbers of affected people is completed before any more tarpaulins or tents are ordered. A parallel Shelter Working Group meeting takes place in Maputo. All minutes and situational reports from both the Maputo and Caia groups are posted on the SWG Google group at the following:

- Group name: Cluster Leads Mozambique Floods 2007
- Group home page: <http://groups.google.com/group/clusterleadsmozambiquefloods07?hl=en-GB>
- Group email address clusterleadsmozambiquefloods07@googlegroups.com

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

CVM and the Federation pay particular attention to the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement. For the time being, special emphasis is given on voluntary services by the recruitment of new volunteers to participate in the operation and to humanity and impartiality during the implementation of the distribution activities.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) crew spent four days with a CVM/Federation team in the field. As a result, two television reports have been broadcast on BBC World News on 18 and 19 February. In addition, daily radio reports were filed to BBC Africa network and world service, and three stories related to the Red Cross activities have been posted on BBC website. Other media are also interested in following the Red Cross activities; *Agence France Presse* (AFP) has requested interviews about the situation in the field, and other agencies have interviewed members of FACT.

Following the issuance of a regional press release about Cyclone Favio, the South African Broadcasting Corporation's (SABC) Channel Africa is now making daily updates on the phone for their radio programmes. Three updates have been given so far, while the BBC has also done radio interviews in Portuguese and English.

Interviews have been given to the Inter Press Service (IPS) and Radio 702 based in South Africa, as well as Voice of America. Reuters and Al Jazeera International have requested for interviews after the cyclone landfall while Voice of America Television crew have planned television coverage on the impact of the cyclone. In addition, two web stories have been posted on the Federation website (www.ifrc.org).

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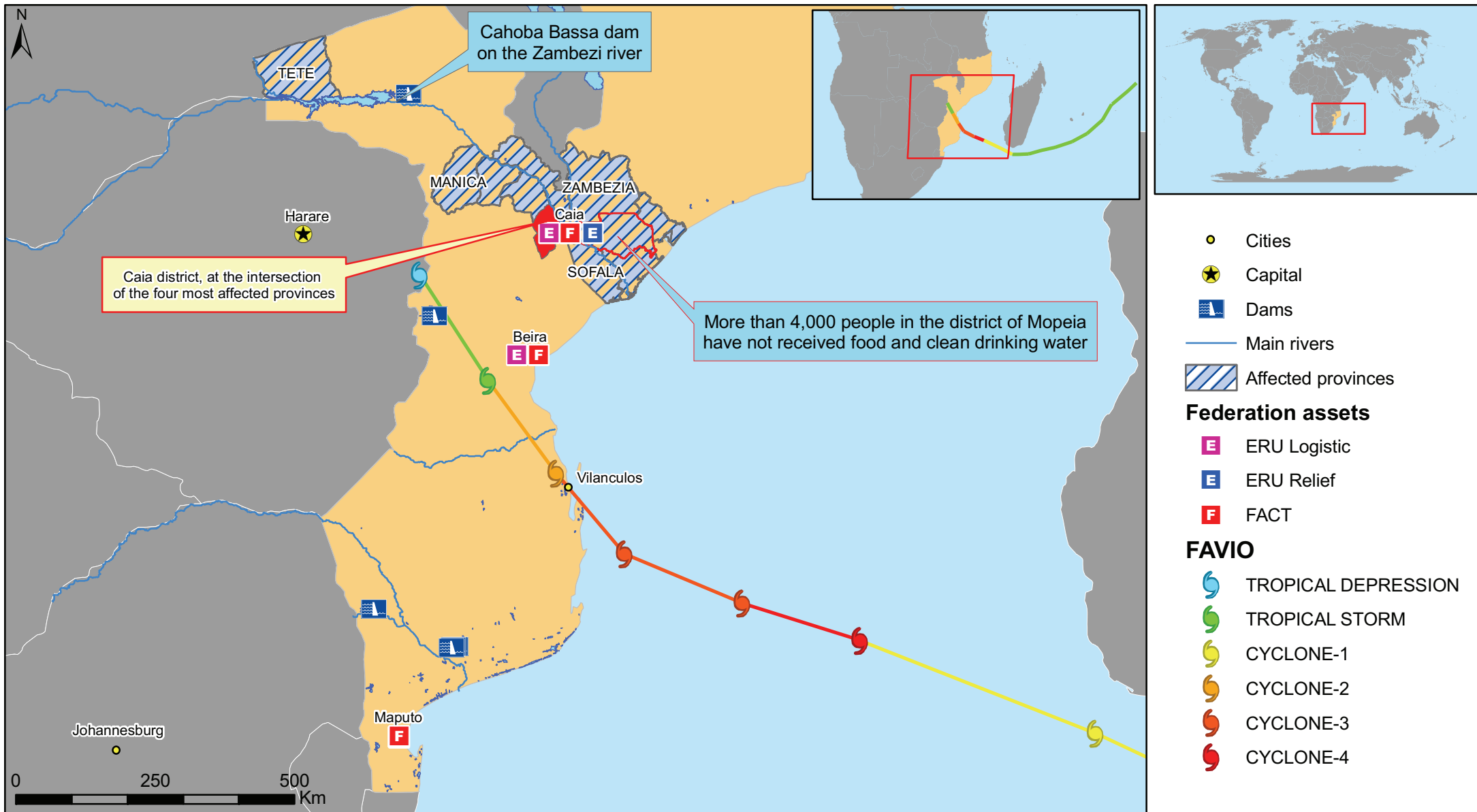
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